

How can I help my child in English?

At Primary School I...	Now they are at Secondary School you can...	Why?
Read to my child or had them read to me	Read the same book at the same time and discuss the story, characters, settings, themes together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role models a more mature outlook on reading • Encourages students to read independently
Gave my child regular spelling tests	Check they understand more complex vocabulary in television programs and encourage them to read with and use a dictionary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourages them to question vocabulary used around them • Role models an inquisitive mind • Develops a more adult vocabulary
Helped them with handwriting work sheets	Encourage them to handwrite things like lists and notes that are both legible and understandable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows students the purpose of handwriting in an increasingly digital world
Read through their work to check for mistakes	Encourage them to proof read their own work. Read their work out loud to them so they can hear the errors they have made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops their ability to spot and correct their own errors
Worked on the computer with them to produce projects	Encourage them to write text messages, social media messages and emails in full Standard English.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using correct English in even informal writing helps develop an instinctive use of English grammar
Went on school trips with them	Take them to see plays, musicals, films and talk to them about the themes and ideas they see and how they make them feel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase their knowledge and enthusiasm for stories • Develop mature interests • Encourage independent and mature thought
Baked cakes with them	Allow them the opportunity to cook meals using recipes as independently as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve concentration • Develop understanding of structure in texts • Improve reading of non-fiction texts
Read stories to them	Encourage them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read newspapers, magazines and other non-fiction texts and discuss current affairs. • Listen to audio books • Read independently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops a mature understanding of current issues • Improves vocabulary • Encourages them to question what they are reading • Improves reading of non-fiction texts